Master Testing Agency
Practice papers, exam-standard · www.mastertestingagency.com

Outcomes of Democracy — CBSE Class 10 Social Science Chapter Test

FREE CHAPTER TEST · CLASS X · SOCIAL SCIENCE (087) · PATTERN OF THE CBSE SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER 2026-27

TIME ALLOWED	MAXIMUM MARKS	QUESTIONS	NAME / ROLL NO.
1½ hours	40	20 (A 10 · B 4 · C 3 · D 1 · E 2)	

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. This question paper contains 20 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. This question paper is divided into five sections: A, B, C, D and E.
3. In Section A, Questions 1 to 8 are multiple choice questions (MCQs) and Questions 9 and 10 are assertion-reason based questions of 1 mark each.
4. In Section B, Q11–14 are very short answer (VSA) type questions, carrying 2 marks each.
5. In Section C, Q15–17 are short answer (SA) type questions, carrying 3 marks each.
6. In Section D, Q18 is a long answer (LA) type question, carrying 5 marks.
7. In Section E, Q19–20 are case study based questions, carrying 4 marks each, with sub-parts of the values of 1, 1 and 2 marks.
8. There is no overall choice. However, an internal choice has been provided in 1 question of Section B, 1 question of Section C, 1 question of Section D and in the 2-mark sub-part of each question of Section E.
9. Answer very short answer questions in about 40 words, short answer questions in about 60 words, long answer questions in about 120 words and case-based questions in about 100 words.
10. This chapter test follows the section structure, question types and marks per question of the CBSE Class X Social Science (087) Sample Question Paper 2026-27, at about half the length of the 80-mark board paper: 40 marks in 1½ hours.
11. The answer key and the marking scheme are at the end of this booklet. Attempt the paper in 1½ hours before you look at them.

All questions are original and © Master Testing Agency. Free to download and use for personal practice; not for resale. Master Testing Agency is an independent test-prep publisher, not affiliated with, endorsed by or connected to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) or any other exam-conducting body.

Chapter: Outcomes of Democracy (Political Science: Democratic Politics – II) · **Topics:** How to assess democracy · Accountable, responsive and legitimate government · Transparency · Economic growth and development · Reduction of inequality and poverty · Accommodation of social diversity · Dignity and freedom of citizens

SECTION A

This section comprises 10 questions of 1 mark each: 8 multiple choice questions (MCQs) and 2 assertion-reason based questions.

1. Democracy is considered better than other forms of government mainly because it is 1

(A) the fastest way to take decisions

(B) a guarantee of economic growth

(C) an accountable, responsive and legitimate government

(D) free of all conflicts

2. The right and means of citizens to examine the process of decision-making in a government is called 1

(A) transparency

(B) legitimacy

(C) partisanship

(D) majoritarianism

3. Which of the following statements about economic growth is correct according to the evidence of 1950–2000? 1

(A) Democracies always grow faster than dictatorships

(B) Democracies have no economic growth

(C) Economic growth depends only on the type of government

(D) Dictatorships have had a slightly higher rate of growth, but the difference is small

4. A democratic government is legitimate because 1

(A) it is the people’s own government, chosen by them

(B) it always takes decisions quickly

(C) it is run by experts

(D) it never faces criticism

5. Decision-making in a democracy is often slower than in a dictatorship because 1

(A) democratic leaders are inefficient

(B) it is based on norms and procedures of deliberation and negotiation

(C) citizens have no say in decisions

(D) there are no elections

6. Which of the following best describes how democracy accommodates social diversity? 1

(A) The majority community always rules

(B) Minorities are kept out of power

(C) Majority and minority opinions are not permanent, and the majority works with the minority

(D) Differences between groups are forbidden

7. In most democratic societies, the recognition of the dignity of women has been the outcome of 1

(A) decisions of dictators

(B) the struggles of women

(C) economic growth alone

(D) the end of elections

8. Which statement about democracy and economic inequality is true? 1

(A) Democracies have eliminated poverty everywhere

(B) Democracy always reduces inequality quickly

(C) Inequality exists only in dictatorships

(D) In many democracies a small number of ultra-rich enjoy a highly disproportionate share of wealth and income

9. **Assertion (A):** Democracy is a better form of government than dictatorship even though it may be slower in taking decisions. 1

Reason (R): Decisions taken by a democratic government after deliberation are more likely to be acceptable to the people and more effective.

(A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

(B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

(C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

(D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

10. **Assertion (A):** Democracy guarantees economic development to every citizen. 1

Reason (R): Democracies have regular, free and fair elections and open public debate on major policies.

(A) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true and Reason (R) is the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

(B) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation of Assertion (A).

(C) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

(D) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

SECTION B

This section comprises 4 very short answer (VSA) type questions of 2 marks each.

11. (a) What is meant by an accountable and responsive government? 2

OR

(b) How does democracy ensure transparency in decision-making?

12. Why is democracy said to be better at handling social differences? 2

13. Give two conditions that a democracy must fulfil to accommodate social diversity. 2

14. How does democracy promote the dignity and freedom of the individual? 2

SECTION C

This section comprises 3 short answer (SA) type questions of 3 marks each.

15. (a) 'A democratic government is a legitimate government.' Explain with three points. 3

OR

(b) Explain the relationship between democracy and economic growth.

16. Why does economic inequality remain a problem in many democracies? Give three points. 3

17. 'Democracy is attentive to the complaints of its people.' Explain with three points. 3

SECTION D

This section comprises 1 long answer (LA) type questions of 5 marks each.

18. (a) 'Democracy is better than any other form of government.' Assess the outcomes of democracy in terms of (i) accountable government, (ii) economic growth, (iii) reduction of inequality, (iv) accommodation of social diversity and (v) dignity and freedom of citizens. 5

OR

(b) Explain three ways in which democracy is better than other forms of government, two of its limitations, and how its outcomes should be judged.

SECTION E

This section comprises 2 case study based questions of 4 marks each, with sub-parts of 1, 1 and 2 marks.

19. Democracy has a better record of producing a government that is accountable, responsive and legitimate. Yet many people complain that democratic governments take time to decide, are not always responsive and have corruption. Over a hundred countries of the world today claim to practise some kind of democratic politics, with formal constitutions, regular elections and political parties.

(i) According to the passage, name one complaint that people make about democratic governments. [1]

(ii) According to the passage, how many countries today claim to practise some kind of democratic politics? [1]

(iii) Why is the fact that people complain about democracy a sign of its success? Give two points. [2]

OR

(iii) Why do people prefer democracy even when it does not always deliver economic growth? Give two points. [2]

20. For a long time women were not treated as equals in many societies. Long struggles by women have created some sensitivity that respect and equal treatment of women are necessary ingredients of a democratic society. In India, caste-based inequalities have similarly been challenged by disadvantaged castes.

(i) According to the passage, which group in India has challenged inequalities in the same way as women? [1]

(ii) Why do democracies give a legal and moral basis to these struggles? [1]

(iii) Give two examples of how democracy has strengthened the claims of disadvantaged and discriminated castes in India. [2]

OR

(iii) Why is the dignity of women and disadvantaged groups said to be the strongest outcome of democracy? Give two points. [2]

END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

ANSWER KEY — SECTION A

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
(C)	(A)	(D)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(B)	(D)	(A)	(D)

MARKING SCHEME AND WORKED SOLUTIONS

Marks for each step are shown in brackets, as in the CBSE marking scheme. Any correct alternative method earns full marks.

Q1. Answer (C). Democracy produces a government that is accountable to the citizens, responsive to their needs and expectations, and legitimate.

Q2. Answer (A). A democratic government follows procedures, so citizens can find out whether a decision was taken through the correct procedure; this is transparency.

Q3. Answer (D). On average, dictatorships had a slightly better record of economic growth, but democracies were not far behind; growth also depends on population size, global situation, cooperation and priorities.

Q4. Answer (A). People wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them; democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome.

Q5. Answer (B). Because decisions are deliberated, they may take more time, but they are more likely to be acceptable to the people and more effective.

Q6. Answer (C). Democracy is not simply rule by majority opinion; the majority needs to work with the minority, and every citizen should have a chance of being in the majority at some point.

Q7. Answer (B). Long struggles by women have created some sensitivity that respect and equal treatment of women are necessary ingredients of a democratic society.

Q8. Answer (D). Democracies are based on political equality, but economic inequalities have often increased; the poor are also a large section of voters whose needs are not always addressed.

Q9. Answer (A). Both true, and R explains A. Answer (A).

Q10. Answer (D). A is false: economic development depends on several factors, and democracy cannot guarantee it. R is true. Answer (D).

Q11. (2 marks) Answer: (a) answerable to citizens; attends to their needs; (b) procedures can be examined: transparency.
(a) Accountable: a government that is answerable to the citizens, who can examine how and why its decisions were taken and can remove it through elections. [1]
Responsive: a government that attends to the needs and expectations of the citizens. [1]
OR (b) Democracy ensures that decision-making is based on norms and procedures, so a citizen who wants to know if a decision was taken through the correct procedure can find this out. [1]
This right and means to examine the process of decisions is transparency, which a democratic government provides better than a non-democratic one. [1]

Q12. (2 marks) Answer: Peaceful negotiation of conflicts; procedures that stop tensions becoming violent.
No society can fully and permanently resolve conflicts among different groups, but democracy evolves a mechanism to negotiate the differences and conflicts peacefully. [1]
Democracies develop a procedure to conduct their competition, which reduces the possibility of these tensions becoming explosive or violent. [1]

Q13. (2 marks) Answer: Majority works with minority; majority must not be fixed on community lines.
Democracy is not simply rule by majority opinion; the majority always needs to work with the minority so that governments represent the general view. [1]
Rule by majority must not become rule by a majority community in terms of religion, race or linguistic group; every citizen should have a chance of being in the majority at some point of time. [1]

Q14. (2 marks) Answer: Respect for every individual; legal and moral basis for women's and disadvantaged castes' claims.
Democracy stands much superior to any other form of government in promoting dignity and freedom of the individual; every individual wants to receive respect from fellow beings. [1]
Long struggles by women and by disadvantaged and discriminated castes have been strengthened by the legal and moral foundation that democracy gives to their claims for equal status and equal opportunity. [1]

Q15. (3 marks) Answer: (a) people's own government; people want elected rulers; generates its own support; (b) slightly lower growth; growth depends on many factors; other positive outcomes.
(a) It may be slow, less efficient, not always very responsive or clean, but a democratic government is the people's own government. [1]
People wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them; there is overwhelming support for the idea of democracy all over the world. [1]
Democracy's ability to generate its own support is itself an outcome that cannot be ignored. [1]
OR (b) On average dictatorships have had a slightly higher rate of economic growth, but the inability of democracy to achieve higher growth is not a reason to reject it. [1]
Economic development depends on several factors: the country's population size, the global situation, cooperation from other countries and the economic priorities adopted by the country. [1]
Democracy has several other positive outcomes, so even if it does not lead to more economic growth it should be preferred. [1]

Q16. (3 marks) Answer: Political but not economic equality; ultra-rich take a growing share; the poor struggle for basic needs.
Democracies are based on political equality: individuals have equal weight in electing representatives, but economic inequalities have often grown alongside. [1]
A small number of ultra-rich enjoy a highly disproportionate share of wealth and incomes, and their share in total income has been increasing. [1]
Those at the bottom of society have very little to depend upon; their incomes have been declining and sometimes they find it difficult to meet basic needs of life such as food, clothing, house, education and health. [1]

Q17. (3 marks) Answer: Complaints show its success; people become critical citizens; elections and debate correct governments.
Democracy allows citizens to raise complaints; the fact that people are complaining is itself a testimony to the success of democracy. [1]
It shows that people have developed awareness and the ability to expect, and to look critically at power holders and the high and mighty. [1]
Democracies have regular, free and fair elections and open public debate, through which governments can be corrected or replaced. [1]

Q18. (5 marks) Answer: (a) accountable and transparent; slightly lower but close growth; inequality persists; accommodates diversity under conditions; dignity and freedom; (b) three merits, limitations, judged over time.
(a) (i) Democracy produces a government accountable to the citizens and responsive to their needs; it ensures decisions follow norms and procedures, giving transparency. [1]
(ii) Dictatorships have had a slightly higher growth rate on average, but democracies are not far behind, and growth depends on several other factors. [1]
(iii) Democracies have not been very successful in reducing economic inequalities; a small number of ultra-rich enjoy a disproportionate share of wealth. [1]
(iv) Democracies accommodate social diversity by negotiating differences peacefully, provided the majority works with the minority and majority rule is not rule by one community. [1]
(v) Democracy promotes the dignity and freedom of the individual: women and disadvantaged castes have gained legal and moral support for their struggles for equal status. [1]
OR (b) Promoting equality among citizens; enhancing the dignity of the individual; improving the quality of decision-making; providing a method to resolve conflicts; and allowing room to correct mistakes (any three for 1 mark each). [3]
But democracy has not been able to eliminate poverty or economic inequality in many countries, and decisions can be slow. [1]
So democracy should be judged by its outcomes over time: it is better than the alternatives, though its outcomes depend on the efforts of citizens. [1]

Q19. (4 marks) Answer: (i) slow decisions, not responsive or corruption; (ii) over a hundred; (iii)(a) awareness, critical citizens; (b) own government, other valued outcomes.
(i) They take time to decide (or are not always responsive, or have corruption). [1]
(ii) Over a hundred countries. [1]
(iii)(a) It shows that people have developed awareness and the ability to expect more from those in power. [1]
People have become critical citizens who look critically at power holders; such complaints can correct governments. [1]
OR (iii)(b) A democratic government is the people's own government, and they wish to be ruled by representatives elected by them. [1]
Democracy has other outcomes — dignity, freedom, equality and peaceful resolution of conflicts — that matter more to people than growth alone. [1]

Q20. (4 marks) Answer: (i) disadvantaged castes; (ii) equality as a principle; (iii)(a) legal basis and representation; (b) dignity and freedom of all, easier struggles.
(i) The disadvantaged castes, who have challenged caste-based inequalities. [1]
(ii) Democracy accepts the equal status and equal opportunity of every individual as a principle. [1]
(iii)(a) Democracy has given them a legal basis to fight for equal status and opportunities. [1]
It has strengthened their claims through laws against discrimination and through political representation (reserved seats). [1]
OR (iii)(b) Democracy is far superior to other forms of government in promoting the dignity and freedom of every individual. [1]
Once the principle of equality is accepted, it becomes easier for individuals to wage struggles against what is now unacceptable legally and morally. [1]

All questions are original and © Master Testing Agency. Free to download and use for personal practice; not for resale. Every answer in this paper was checked against the NCERT Class 10 Political Science textbook, Democratic Politics – II, and the marks in every model answer were checked by computer.